

Early Pioneers of the Negro Leagues:

Agustin “Tinti” Molina



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

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Tinti Molina Manages One of the Greatest Teams in Latin American Baseball History

The highlight of Agustin "Tinti" Molina's managerial career came during the 1923-24 Cuban Winter League season when he managed the Santa Clara Leopards to a "league" championship.

Molina's roster for the 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopards was as follows:

Player	Position	Batting Average	Player	Position	Record
Eddie Douglas	1B	.322	Dave Brown	Pitcher	7-3
Oscar "Heavy" Johnson	1B	.345	Rube Currie	Pitcher	8-2
Frank "Weasel" Warfield	2B	.296	Bill Holland	Pitcher	10-2
Walter "Dobie" Moore	SS	.386	Jose Mendez	Pitcher	3-1
Oliver "Ghost" Marcelle	3B	.393	Mervyn "Red" Ryan	Pitcher	5-0
Frank Duncan	C	.336			
Julio Rojo	C	.320			
Oscar Charleston	OF	.375			
Pablo "Champion" Mesa	OF	.328			
Alejandro Oms	OF	.381			

The starting line-up for Santa Clara compiled a team batting average of .349 for the entire season. Five of these players - Oscar Charleston (.534), Alejandro Oms (.532), Dobie Moore (.516), Oliver Marcelle (.511) and Oscar Johnson (.509) - had season slugging averages above .500.

The 1923-24 Cuban season started on November 20, 1923 and ended on January 16, 1924. During the season Molina's Leopards had winning streaks of 11 of 13 games and 14 of 15 games. They also won their last six (6) games of the season. Santa Clara finished the season with a record of 36-11 (.766) and easily won the 1923-24 Cuban Winter League title by 11 ½ games over the Habana Leones.

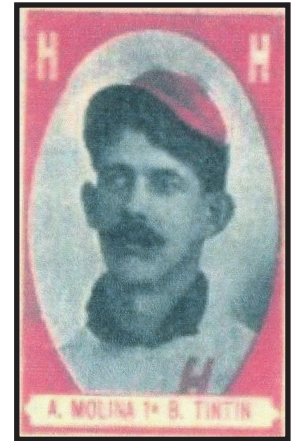
The 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopards are generally considered the best team to ever play in the Cuban League and one of the best all-time Latin teams in professional baseball history.



Santa Clara Leopards

Jose Agustin “Tinti” Molina Becerra was born on August 28, 1873 in Key West, Florida. Even though he was born in the United States he was of Cuban heritage. Tinti’s father had emigrated from Cuba to Florida because he was being persecuted by Spanish authorities.

During his Negro League and Cuban playing career, Tinti Molina stood over six feet tall and weighed between 170 to 185 pounds. He threw right handed and batted from the right hand side of the plate. Molina was primarily a catcher but also played first base and in the outfield when needed. Unfortunately for Tinti, he was an extremely weak hitter and finished his career with a miniscule .171 batting average (163 hits in 951 at bats). In addition to a poor batting average, Tinti didn’t have any power when he got a hit. Current research credits Molina with a miniscule .204 slugging percentage in 270 games against all levels of competition. During his career as a player, Molina played on seven (7) championship teams.



Agustin Molina

Tinti Molina is best remembered in Negro League baseball and Cuban baseball history as a manager. During his managerial career he managed the All Cubans, Cuban Stars of Havana and Cuban Stars (West) in the United States. In Cuba he managed numerous teams from 1889 through the 1938 season. Agustin Molina’s overall won-loss record as a manager is 743-945-26 (.440).

Agustin “Tinti” Molina spent his entire adult career in professional baseball. He started in 1895 as a player with the Matanzas B.B.C. and retired in 1946 as the administrator of the Cuban Winter League. For all of his contributions to baseball in Cuba, he was elected in 1942 to the fourth class of individuals to be inducted into the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame.

Early Baseball Playing Career in Cuba

Tinti Molina honed his baseball skills on the sand lots in his hometown of Key West (FL). In his obituary which was written by Rene Molina (no relation) and Fausto Miranda that was published in the February 11, 1961 issue of Revolucion , the two writers tell the following story of how Tinti first got his start in professional baseball. According to the two authors, Molina’s first exposure to professional baseball reportedly came in 1895 when he traveled to Cuba carrying important documents related to the Cuban revolution. To avoid suspicion by Spanish authorities, Tinti was signed to play baseball for the Matanzas B.B.C. team for the 1894-95 Cuban League season. The owners of the Matanzas team dropped out of the Cuban League on March 7, 1895 and Spanish authorities suspended “league” play on May 19th because of civil unrest on the island. After the Matanzas team folded, Molina returned to Key West.

When the Cuba War of Independence (1895-1898) got underway, Molina returned to Cuba as part of an expeditionary force to fight the Spanish and return the island to local rule. The war lasted less than three years and ended when the United States declared war on and subsequently defeated Spain in the short lived Spanish-American War. The Treaty of Paris which ended the Spanish-American War resulted in the expulsion of Spain from Cuba. After the war Tinti Molina returned home to Key West.

Due to the Cuban War for Independence there were no baseball seasons played in 1895 and 1896. When Cuban baseball resumed in 1897, Agustin Molina returned to Cuba to play for team Fiesta during the 1897-98 Cuban baseball season. The season started on December 26, 1897 and abruptly ended on April 17, 1898 when the United States declared war on Spain. Molina was the starting catcher for team Fiesta and helped lead the team to an 8-2 won-loss record. Fiesta was

declared the “unofficial” winners of the Cuban championship title. Almendarista (4-5) and Habanista (2-7) also competed in the Cuban Winter League during the 1897-1898 season.

Baseball returned to Almendares Park in 1899 and Tinti Molina returned to the island to catch for Severino T. Solionso’s team Cuba. There were only three teams (Almendarista, Cuba and Habanista) that played in the 1899 Cuban League. The baseball season opened on February 19th of 1899 and play concluded on July 9th. Team Cuba finished the regular season with a disappointing record of 4-8 (.333) and they were in last place in the final “league” standings. Habanista (9-3) won the “league” title and Almendarista (5-7) came in second place.

The All Cubans Come to America

After the regular 1899 Cuban League season ended, Cuban baseball executive Abel Linares put together an all-star team made-up of players representing all three “league” teams (Almendarista, Cuba and Habanista) for a baseball tour of the eastern part of the United States. This team has the distinction of being the very first Latin team to tour the United States. Linares named his team the “All Cubans.” The starting line-up for the 1899 All Cubans was as follows:

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Esteban Prats	OF	Miguel Prats
2B	Daniel Miguel	OF	Jose M. Baeza
SS	Bernardo Carrillo	OF	Alfredo Arcano
3B	Carlos Royer/Salvador Rosado		
C	Moises Quintero	P	Felo Rodriquez
C	Agustin “Tinti” Molina	P	Carlos Royer

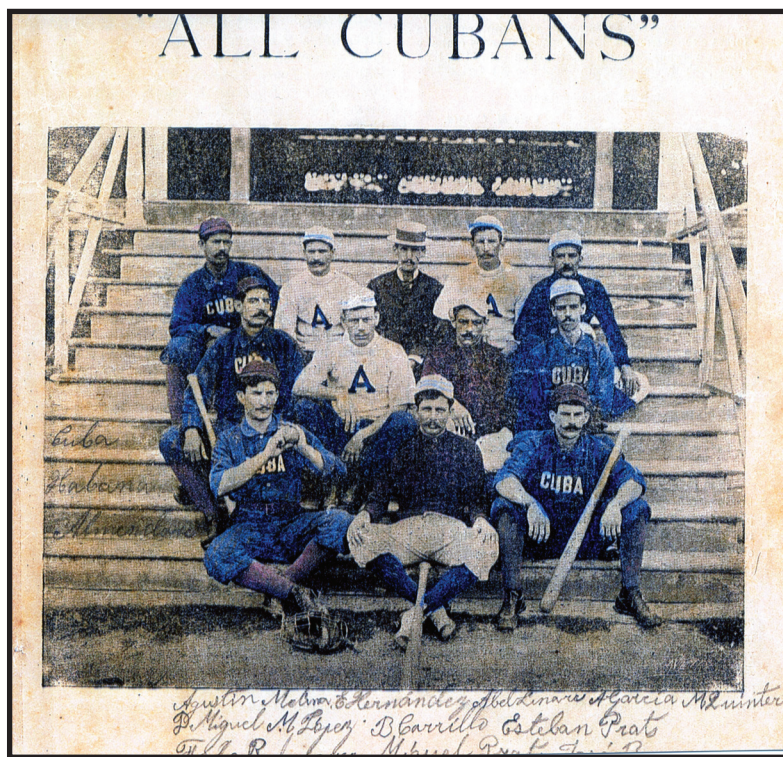
Other players appearing for the 1899 All Cubans were as follows: Antonio Maria Garcia, Emilio Hernandez (OF), Manuel Lopez and Perez (no first name). It is believed that Linares picked up some of these players in the United States.

Abel Linares, of Havana, will invade the United States about Aug. 1 with a team of players called the All-Cubans. He has written for games with the Western Association teams, not having heard that the association has disbanded. The independent team, which is to be organized here in a few weeks, should get a date with the Cubans.

Morning Star
Rockford, IL
06-24-1899

Abel Linares accompanied the team and also served as the business manager. Both Rafael “Felo” Rodriquez and Agustin “Tinti” Molina along with Linares have been credited with managing the team. Linares and his twelve (12) players took a steamship from Havana and landed in New York City in June of 1899 with reportedly only \$ 25.00 in their pockets. Abel Linares’ motivation for scheduling the tour was two fold. First, he saw a business opportunity to make money and secondly he wanted to show off the baseball skills of his Cuban players.

During their United States tour, the All Cubans competed against both white semiprofessional and Negro baseball teams. The All Cubans tour was locally sponsored by former baseball player and promoter Alfred Lawson. Only thirteen (13) box scores, articles with game coverage and line scores have been found for the 1899 All Cubans. The first game reported for the All Cubans occurred on July 28th and was against a white team representing Weehawken (NJ). The All Cubans won the game by a score of 12-4. The best two offensive showings of their 1899 season in the United States were beating Hoboken 26-8 and Mountain A.C. by a score of 20-2.

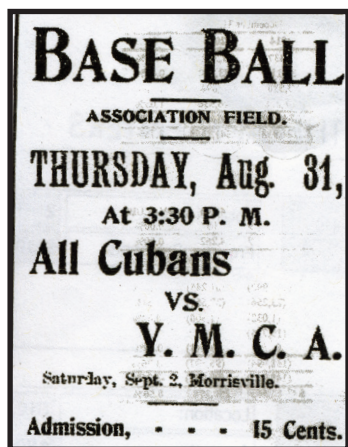


All Cubans (1899)

(Back row left to right – **Agustin “Tinti” Molina**, Emilio Hernandez, **Abel Linares**, Antonio Maria Garcia, Moises Quintero. Middle row left to right – Daniel Miguel, Manuel Lopez, Bernardo Carrillo and Esteban Prats. Front row left to right – Felo Rodriguez, Miguel Prats and Jose M. Baeza.)

The All Cubans also played the Cuban X-Giants at least three times during the season. They won one game by a score of 16-5 and lost the other two games by the scores of 7-3 and 11-6. These games against the Cuban X-Giants were critically important because it paved the way for the Cuban X-Giants coming to Cuba to play in what would become the American Series. These three games against the Cuban X-Giants were played in Hoboken (NJ) on August 14th, 15th and 21st. The games almost did not take place because Linares was extremely upset that the opposing team (Cuban X-Giants) used the name “Cuban” and they didn’t have a Cuban player on their team.

From newspaper reports, it appears that crowds attending All Cubans games were inconsistent. There were some games like the one in Weehawken that drew 1,800 fans but unfortunately there were other games that didn’t draw enough of a crowd to pay the expenses. Local baseball promoters used the fact that the All Cubans were from Cuba as a gimmick/novelty to try to draw fans to the box office and sometimes this worked.



For some unknown reason, three of Abel Linares’ players (Alfredo Arcano, Antonio Maria Garcia and Manuel Lopez) returned to Cuba before the end of the tour. The remainder of the team returned home to Havana in September. The tour had taken in so little money that when it was time to sail home, Linares and two of his players had to wait in New York City until money could be sent from Cuba to pay for their return trip home. In later years when he was asked about the tour, Abel Linares labeled it as a “tremendous failure.”

Trenton Evening Times

Trenton, NJ
08-28-1899

According to the Seamheads research team the Abel Linares' All Cubans were the fourth best team in the East in 1899.

Molina Returns to the United States to Play Negro Baseball

Tinti Molina didn't return to the United States until 1903 when he signed to play professional baseball for Abel Linares' All Cubans team. Molina's second season in the United States was a major disappointment. Current research credits Tinti with only 15 hits in 111 "official" at bats for a meager .135 batting average for the season. During the 1903 All Cubans season, Tinti was the team's starting catcher. Even though his hitting didn't provide much supports to the All Cubans, he proved valuable to the team because according to newspaper reports he was the only player on the team who spoke English. Two major highlights of the 1903 season for Tinti were when he went 3 for 4 with a double against Hoboken on June 8th and then when he registered an unbelievable eighteen (18) put outs in a game against the Steelton YMCA on June 2nd.



All Cubans (1903)

Some of the top players on the All Cubans roster in 1903 were Luis Bustamante (SS), Alfredo Cabrera (1B), Hector Magrinat (OF), Joseito Munoz (P) and Juan Padron (2B). Near the end of the season when the team was playing in Florida several new players joined the team. They were Regino Garcia (C), Miguel Prats (P), Carlos "Bebe" Royer (1B/P) and Salvador Rosada (P).

The All Cubans played an independent schedule during their United States tour in 1903. Other top Negro baseball teams in the East in 1903 were the Cuban X-Giants with Grant Johnson as their manager and the Philadelphia Giants with Sol White as the team's manager.

The Center for Negro League Baseball Research has found 30 box scores for Molina playing for the All Cubans in 1903. The team had an impressive won-loss record of 20-9-1 (.690) in these 30 games. Tinti was in the starting line-up as the team's catcher in all but one game in which he played first base. Our research also revealed that Tinti Molina had 92 at bats with 11 runs scored

Havana Trims X-Giants

YORK, May 16 (Special).—After having a big lead here today in an exhibition game with the Havana Club, the Cuban X-Giants allowed the Islanders to go ahead. Havana won out by the score of 13 to 9.

HAVANA.					CUBAN X-GIANTS.						
r.	h.	e.	a.	e.	r.	h.	e.	a.	e.		
Bausanti, ss	1	2	2	0	0	Winston, lf	0	0	1	0	0
Cavillo, 1b	1	2	12	0	0	Hill, 3b	0	0	1	3	1
Valdes, 2b	2	1	3	3	2	Palo'n, cf	3	2	4	0	0
Margriva, rf	2	1	0	0	2	Garcia, c	2	3	2	3	1
Molina, c	3	4	0	1	0	Valdes, ss	1	1	3	0	0
Petit, 3b	3	2	1	2	0	Wil'ms, 1b	1	2	14	0	1
Martinez, cf	1	0	2	0	0	Weaver, rf	0	2	0	0	0
Martinez, lf	2	3	1	0	1	Lee, 2b	1	0	2	0	0
Mesa, p	0	2	9	1	0	Jackson, p	1	1	0	5	0
Totals	15	17	27	13	5	Totals	9	11	27	17	4
Havana	0	4	0	0	4	0	2	3	2	13	
Cuban X-Giants	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	9	

Earned runs—Cuban X-Giants, 3; Havana, 5. Two-base hits—Martinez, 2; Margriva, Molina, Palomina, Bausamanti. Stolen bases—Margriva, 2; Petit, Hill, Palomina, Garcia. Double plays—Mesa, Bausamanti, Cavillo. Sacrifice hit—Martinez. Left on bases—Cuban X-Giants, 6; Havana, 8. First base on errors—Cuban X-Giants, 3; Havana, 2. Struck out—By Mesa, 8; by Jackson, 3. Bases on balls—By Mesa, 2; by Jackson, 2. Hit by pitched ball—Lee. Time of game—1h. 42m. Umpire—Geiser.

Molina Goes 4 for 5

Philadelphia Inquirer
Philadelphia, PA
05-17-10

and 18 base hits for a .196 batting average. The difference in his season batting average as compared to other researchers is that we all didn't analyze the same games.

It appears that Tinti Molina did not play in the United States during the 1904 and 1905 seasons.

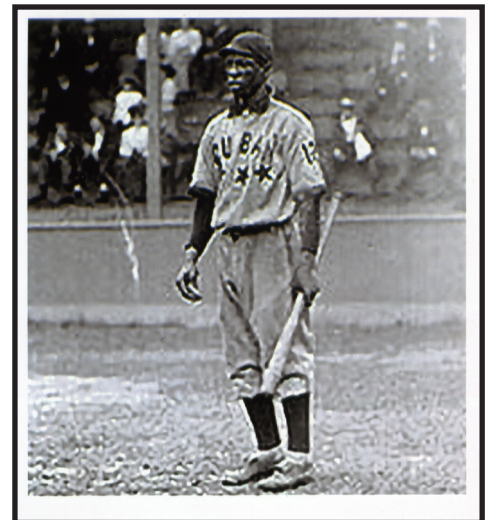
Documentation has been found that shows Molina did return to the United States in 1906 to play baseball. During the 1906 season he played for the Cuban X-Giants, Havana Stars, Philadelphia Quaker Giants and Cuban Stars. Tinti started the season with the Cuba X-Giants but after a few games moved to the Havana Stars where he was the team's manager and starting catcher. Six (6) box scores have been found for Tinti Molina with the Havana Stars in May of 1906. His team went 5-0-1 in these six games. In addition as the team's starting catcher he went 9 for 22 for a .409 batting average.

In June he was signed by the Philadelphia Quaker Giants of the International League. Tinti stayed with the Quaker Giants until mid-August when he joined the Cuban Stars. Molina finished the 1906 season with the Stars.

Molina returns to the United States

It appears that Tinti Molina did not play or manage in the United States during the 1907, 1908 and 1909 seasons.

In 1910 Agustin Molina was signed as the player/manager for Abel Linares' Cuban Stars of Havana who played an independent schedule throughout the United States. With Nat Strong serving as business manager and booking agent, the team played a very busy schedule. During the 1910 season the Cuban Stars offense was led by the hitting of Regino Garcia (.347), Luis Bustamante (.312), Agustin Parpetti (.297) and Carlos Moran (.288). In a backup role at first base and in the outfield Tinti Molina went 8 for 20 for a .400 batting average. Lico Mederos, Jose Mendez, Estaquio "Bombin" Pedroso and Will Horn composed the pitching staff. Thirty-one (31) box scores have been found for the Cuban Stars of Havana for their 1910 season. They compiled an excellent won-loss record of 18-13 (.581) for these games. According to the Seamheads research team, the Cuban Stars of Havana were considered the second best independent team in Negro baseball for the 1910 season.



Jose Mendez
Cuban Stars

Prior to the start of the 1911 season, owner Abel Linares reorganized his team that he would send to barnstorm in the United States and changed their name back to the "All Cubans." Linares selected Tinti Molina as the player/manager for the All Cubans. Offensively the top players for the 1911 All Cubans were Luis Bustamante (SS), Regino Garcia (C), Jose Magrinat (OF) and



Washington Times
 Washington, D.C.
 08-23-11

Manuel Villa (OF). Eustaquio “Bombin” Pedroso, Lico Mederos, Pastor Pareda and Jose Parra comprised Molina’s pitching staff. Current research has identified twenty-nine (29) box scores and line scores for the 1911 All Cubans. Their won-loss record in these games was a disappointing 9-20 (.310). The Seamheads research team ranks them as the ninth best independent Negro baseball team for the 1911 season.

Even though their won-loss record does not seem to justify it, in late August the All Cubans were selected to play in the “Colored Championship” series that was sponsored by the Association of Colored Professional Ball Players of America and Cuba. The series was held at Union League Park in Washington, D.C. The Washington Giants and Philadelphia Giants were to play the first game. Game two would match the winner of game one with the Brooklyn Royal Giants. In game three the Pittsburgh Giants were scheduled to play the All Cubans. The outcome of the series is currently unknown.

Agustin Molina also played briefly for the Cuban Stars during the 1911 season. The 1911 season was the last season in which Agustin Molina played in the field on a semi-regular basis. After 1911 Molina was basically a manager only.

Summarizing Molina’s Career as a Player in the United States

Due primarily to extremely poor newspaper coverage of the day, hitting statistics are far from complete for Tinti Molina’s career in the United States. Current research has identified sixty-two (62) ball games and two hundred and fifty (250) “official” at bats for Tinti Molina during his Negro baseball playing career in the United States. In these games he went 51 for 250 for a .204 batting average with a disappointing .244 slugging percentage. Tinti collected just nine (9) extra base hits (8 doubles, 1 triple and 0 homeruns). The majority of his hits came during the 1906 season with the Havana Stars and 1910 season with the Cuban Stars of Havana when he went 20 for 50 for a .400 batting average. For all the other games in the United States for which we have found box scores, Tinti went just 31 for 200 for a dismal .155 batting average.

Defensively, Tinti Molina started his career as a catcher. Reportedly he only had an average arm but was known to have called a “good” game. Later in his career he played first base and occasionally filled-in in the outfield. He was considered to be a very smart player which led him into managing.

Negro Baseball Managerial Career

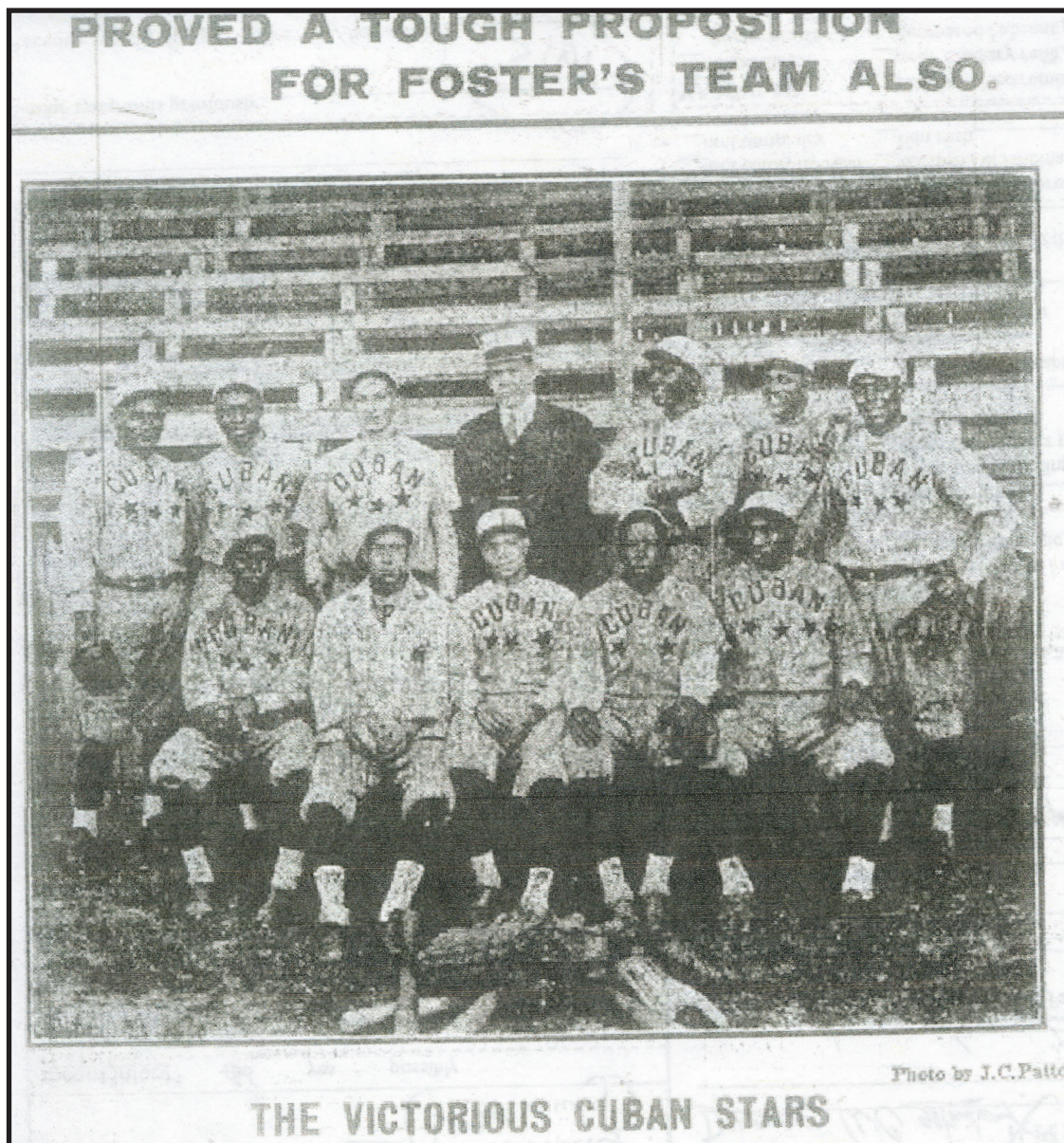
Tinti Molina’s first year to manage in the United States was in 1906 when he piloted the Havana Stars and the Cuban Stars of Havana. Both teams were owned by Abel Linares. Current research has not been able to confirm that Agustin Molina managed in the United States during the 1907, 1908 or 1909 season. Molina did return to the United States in 1910 and manage the Cuban Stars of Havana to an impressive 18-13 (.581) won-loss record. In 1911 he returned to the United States to manage Abel Linares’ All Cubans team.

Agustin "Tinti" Molina started managing the Cuban Stars (West) in 1916 and managed the team through their 1930 Negro National League season.

Tinti Molina's Cuban Stars Defeat Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants

One of the highlights of Tinti Molina's managerial career in the United States came in the summer of 1915 when Tinti Molina took his Cuban Stars team to Chicago (IL) to play Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants in what was promoted as a "championship series." The series was played at Schorling Park from July 4th to July 11th. The games were a financial success at the box office. More than 10,000 fans attended the games that were played on July 4th and a similar size crowd turned out on July 5th.

The Cuban Stars prevailed by winning three straight games. Molina's Cuban Stars beat the American Giants top three starters (Frank Wickware, Rube Foster and Dick Whitworth).





Cuban Stars (1919)
Mexican Barnstorming Tour

(Left to right – Bartolo Portuando, Tatica Campos, Bernardo Baro, Eufemio Abreau, Estuaqio “Bombim” Pedroso, Agustin “Tinti” Molina, Abraham Tolosa, Rafael Figarola, Bienvendio “Hooks” Jimenez, Manuel Villa, Jose LeBlanc, Jose Junco and Matais Rios.

Cuban Stars Travel to Mexico

BASEBALL

CALICHE PARK Laredo, Texas

SATURDAY 6 P. M.
SUNDAY 10:30 A. M. AND 4:30 P. M.

CUBAN STARS
VS.
LAREDO.

Admission 25 cents.
Grand Stand 50 cents.
Box Seats 75 cents.

This team has toured through the Northern United States for the past fourteen years, and are now on their way to St. Louis, Chicago, New York and other large Cities where they have games booked for the next four months.

Before the start of the 1919 regular baseball season in the United States, Tinti Molina took his Cuban Stars team to Mexico for a barnstorming exhibition tour. Specific details of the tour are unknown and need to be researched.

On May 23rd of 1919 the Cuban Stars returned to the United States at the Laredo, Texas point of entry. While in Laredo the Cuban Stars played a three game series against the local Laredo club at Caliche Park in Laredo. In game one, the Stars made short work of their local opponent and came away with a 22 to 2 win behind the pitching of Jose Le Blanc. No scores are currently available for games two and three of the series.

Laredo Times
Laredo, TX
05-25-19

During his Negro baseball career in the United States, he managed the Cuban Stars of Havana, All Cubans and Cuban Stars (West) for eleven (11) seasons. Each of these teams played an independent schedule that was primarily concentrated in the western part of the United States. They also conducted a tour of Mexico during the 1919 season. In eleven (11) seasons of independent baseball, Tinti Molina's teams compiled a decent won-loss record of 192-211-10 (.476).

Negro National League Managerial Career

When the Negro National League was formed in 1920 by Rube Foster, the Cuban Stars (West) were one of the inaugural teams and Tinti Molina was signed to manage the Cuban Stars (West) team in the Negro National League.

Tinti Molina managed in the Negro National League for eleven (11) seasons. His yearly and career won-loss records in these eleven (11) seasons were as follows:

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Place
1920	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	35	34	0	.507	5 th
1921	Cincinnati Cuban Stars	Negro National League	36	44	2	.450	6 th
1922	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	18	43	0	.295	8 th
1923	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	27	35	0	.435	5 th
1924	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	15	34	0	.306	8 th
1925	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	20	30	0	.400	5 th
1926	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	19	47	0	.288	6 th
1927	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	18	43	0	.295	7 th
1928	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	13	41	0	.241	8 th
1929	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	18	40	2	.310	6 th
1930	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	25	41	0	.379	6 th
Total			244	432	4	.361	-

Other than 1921 when the Cuban Stars were based out of Cincinnati (OH), they never had a home field ball park. The 1921 Cincinnati Cuban Stars called Redland Field their home field.



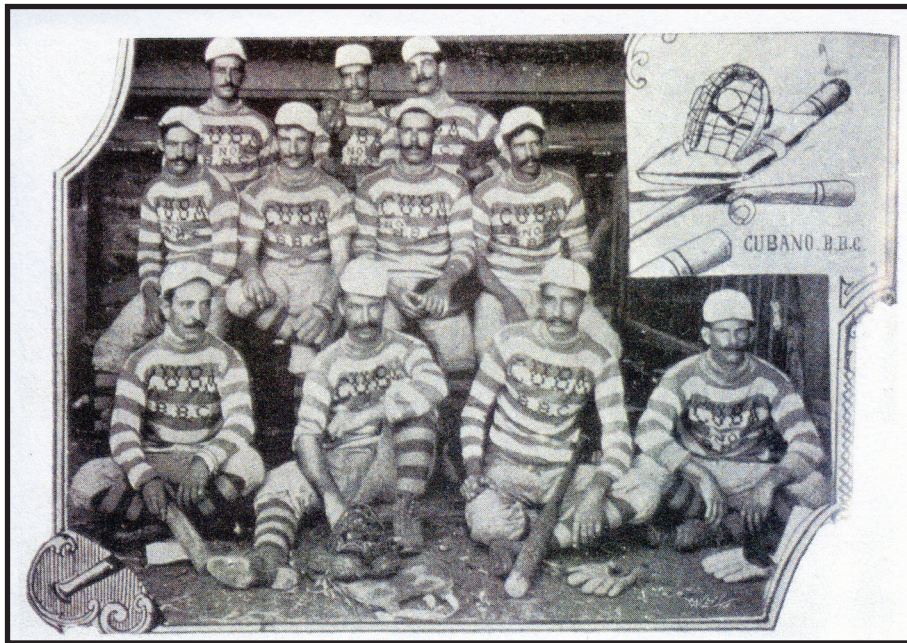
Cuban Stars (1928)

(Back row left to right – Esteban Montalvo, unknown, unknown, Bienvenido “Hooks” Jimenez, unknown, **Agustin “Tinti” Molina**, unknown, Pedro Arango and Aurelio Cortez. Front row left to right – Rogelio Alonzo, Cando Lopez, unknown, Edolfo “Yo Yo” Diaz, unknown and Marcelino “Cho Cho” Corraera.)

Molina's Playing Career in Cuba Continues

In early 1900 Agustin Molina was back in Cuba, as the starting catcher for the Criollos all-star team that played the Cuban X-Giants in the very first American Series featuring a black team from the United States. Also appearing for the Criollos were legendary pitcher Carlos Royer (P), Chino Moran (3B), Juan "Kiko" Magrinat (SS), Esteban Prats (1B), Jose Maria Baeza (OF), Rafael "Felo" Rodriguez (P) and Sirque Gonzalez (manager). The Criollos handed the Cuban X-Giants of the United States two of their three losses while they were in Cuba.

Molina also played for the Cubano team during the 1900 Cuban League season. The Cubano team finished the regular season which had begun on May 17th and ended on December 23rd with a record of 11-13 (.458). They were in third place in the final Cuban League standings. The other teams that played in the "league" in 1900 were San Francisco (17-10), Habana (14-13) and Almendarista (9-15). San Francisco defeated Habana in three game play-off series for the "league" title. An interesting side note to the 1900 season was that the San Francisco team was comprised entirely of black players.



Cubano B.B.C. (1900)

Tinti Molina returned to Cuba to play for Cubano for the 1901 Cuban League season which began play on February 3rd and concluded play on July 28th. The Cubano team struggled all season and ended their 1901 campaign with a disappointing record of 4-14 (.222). Habana won the "league" title with a record of 16-3 (.848). Only team Fe (3-16) had a worse record than Cubano. Tinti Molina also played briefly for Habana during the 1901 season.

During the 1902 Cuban League season, Tinti was the starting catcher for Habana who compiled a perfect record of 17-0 for the season. Opening day for the 1902 season was January 1st and the season ended on May 25th. The key to Habana's success was not Tinti's hitting. Molina only got 4 hits in 57 at bats in for a meager .070 batting average in 17 games. Habana's success can be attributed to Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Carlos "Bebe" Royer who went 17-0 and won all of Habana's games during the season.

It is unclear as to whether or not Tinti Molina played in the Cuban League during the 1903 season. It has been reported by one researcher that Molina may have been a utility player for Habana during the season. The Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) has been

unable to confirm this supposition. We do know that he did play for Nuevo Azul and started at first base for them in the 1903 American Series against the Cuban X-Giants of the United States. Other top players on the Nuevo Azul team were Rafael Almeida (SS), Carlos Moran (OF), Miguel Prats (OF), Gervasio Sanchez (C) and Juan Viola (OF). Nuevo Azul went 1-2 (.333) in American Series action. The American Series was played from December 1st through December 20th. The Cuban X-Giants behind the pitching of Andrew “Rube” Foster (1-2), Captain Dan McClellan (0-2) and Ed Wilson (1-2) did not fare well during the 1903 American Series. They went 2-7-1.

Molina returned to the Cuban League in 1904 when he was signed by the San Francisco club as the team’s starting first baseman. Offensively, he had the best season of his Cuban baseball career with a .232 batting average for the season. San Francisco finished the season which lasted from February 7th to June 2nd with a 9-12 (.429) record which was second best in the three team league. Habana won the Cuban League title with a record of 16-4 (.800) and Almendares came in last place with a record of 6-15 (.286). Tinti also played with Azul of the Premio de Verano League (Cuba) and Almendares of the Cuban League in 1904. Azul won their league’s championship with a record of 13-6 (.684).

During the winter of 1904-05, five different teams from the United States traveled to Cuba to play in the American Series. They were the Cuban X-Giants, Lynn (MA) of the New England League, Tampa (FL), a team called the “All-Americans” and a team that played under the name of the “All Nationals.” Tinti Molina played for Azul of the Premio de Verano League during the series which started October 13, 1904 and ended on January 19, 1905. Azul went 0-2 against the Cuban X-Giants, won three straight games from the Lynn Shoemakers of the New England League, won both of their games versus the All Nationals, broke even (2-2) with Tampa and went 0-6 against the All Americans.



Almendares (1905)

(Back row left to right – Esteban Prats, Heliodoro Hidalgo, Emilio Palomino, Alfredo Cabrera and Inocencio Perez. Middle row left to right – **Armando Marsans, Rafael Almedia, Abel Linares, Augustin “Tinti” Molina**, Trainer Evaristo Pla and Armando Cabanas. Front row left to right – Angel D’Meza, Regino Garcia and Pedro Medina.)

In 1905 the Cuban League played a thirty (30) game season that started on January 29th and ended on May 14th. Tinti Molina was signed by Abel Linares, owner/manager, of Almendares as the team's back-up catcher and first baseman. The team was led by the hitting of starting catcher Regino Garcia (.305) and the pitching of Angel D'Meza (10-4). Almendares won the Cuban League championship with a record of 19-11 (.633). Habana came in second with a record of 15-15 (.500) and Fe finished in last place with a record of 11-19 (.367).

Over the winter of 1905 the Cuban X-Giants returned to the island to play in the American Series for the fourth time. Tinti appeared in three games for Habana during the series that was played at Almendares Park during October and November.

Before the start of the 1906 Cuban League season, Tinti Molina was signed as the player/manager of Habana. This was his first job managing a team in Cuba since he had piloted team Cuba in 1899. Unfortunately for Molina, Habana had a poor hitting line-up (.198 team batting average) with no reliable pitching. To make matters even worse Habana fielders committed 135 errors in just 24 games. Tinti didn't help his cause as the team's starting catcher. Molina went 10 for 74 for a meager .130 batting average for the season. Habana finished the season in last place with a record of 7-17 (.292) and were eight (8) games behind "league" champion Fe (15-9).

After an extremely poor season in 1906, Tinti moved to Almendares as a coach and back-up catcher/first baseman for the 1907 Blues team. The thirty (30) game Cuban League season started on January 1st and play concluded on April 14th. With Eugenio Santacruz as the team's manager, Almendares won the 1907 title with a record of 17-13 (.567). It is important to note that some researchers credit Tinti Molina with managing the Almendares team in 1907. From this researcher's perspective he was a coach because in the one team photo that has been found for Almendares in 1907 he is identified in the team photo as a coach.

Molina also played for Rojo (Premio de Verano League) and appeared in three games for Habana in the 1907 American Series. The Premio de Verano was a summer baseball league in Cuba. All of the "league" games for the Premio de Verano were played in Almendares Park in Habana.

The 1908 Cuban League season expanded play to a forty-five (45) game schedule for the season. The "league" schedule started on January 1st and ended on March 16th. For some unknown reason, Tinti Molina moved from Almendares to Habana as the back-up player at catcher and first base. Habana finished the season with an outstanding record of 32-13 (.711). Unfortunately for Habana, Almendares went 37-8 (.822). Even though some researchers credit Tinti Molina with having been the manager for Habana in 1908, our research agrees with noted Cuban baseball historian/author, Jorge Figueredo, that Luis Someillan was the manager of Habana and Molina was a back-up player and possibly a coach.

Cuban League officials decided to start what should have been the 1909 regular season early. League play for the 1908-09 winter league season began on December 20, 1908 and the season ended on April 22, 1909. Tinti Molina returned to Habana for the season as the back-up catcher for Gonzalo Sanchez. Luis Someillan started the season as the manager for Habana. Some researchers also credit Molina as managing Habana during the 1908-09 season. It is quite possible that Tinti may have replaced Someillan as manager sometime during the 1909 portion of the season because we do know that Tinti Molina was managing Habana for the 1909 American Series. With whoever managed Habana, the team won the Cuban Winter League title with an impressive record of 29-13 (.690) by one game over Almendares (28-14). This was Tinti Molina's last season as a player in Cuba.

Summary of Molina's Cuban Baseball Playing Career

Current research indicates that Agustin "Tinti" Molina played at least twelve (12) seasons of professional baseball in Cuba. His first season is believed to have been in 1895 for the Matanzas B.B.C. and his last season as a player was the 1908-09 season for Habana.

Molina was a very weak hitter who posted a meager .160 (112 for 701) lifetime batting average with a .191 career slugging percentage in games played in Cuba.

The highlights of his Cuban playing career are as follows:

- Agustin "Tinti" Molina played twelve (12) seasons at the highest level of Cuban baseball plus several seasons in lower level leagues and was a member of several teams that participated in American Series games.
- Caught for the Fiesta team that won the 1897-98 Cuban championship title with a record of 8-2 (.800).
- Played briefly for Cuban League champion Habana team during the 1901 season.
- Member of the 1902 Habana team that went undefeated (17-0) and won the Cuban baseball title.
- As a starter he had his best season offensively in Cuba for the 1904 San Francisco team. Tinti hit .232 with a .319 slugging percentage for the season
- Member of the 1905 Almendares team that were the Cuban champions with a record of 19-11 (.633)
- Molina also played for the 1907 Almendares squad who went 17-13 (.567) and were the Cuban League title holders.
- Tinti ended his Cuban baseball career as a player after the 1908-09 season when he was a back-up player for the "league" champion Habana club.

Cuban Baseball Managerial Career

Agustin Molina's first managerial job in Cuba was reportedly during the 1899 season when he managed team Cuba to a 4-8 (.333) record. The twelve game season was played at Almendares Park and took almost five (5) months from February 19th through June 9th to complete.

His next opportunity to manage in Cuba would not come for another six years. Before the start of the 1906 Cuban League season, Tinti Molina was signed as the player/manager of Habana. The Cuban League reduced their season schedule to twenty-four (24) games for the 1906 season. The season started on January 4th and ended on March 29th. Unfortunately for Molina, Habana had a poor hitting line-up with no reliable pitching. Tinti didn't help his cause as the team's starting catcher. Molina went 10 for 74 for a meager .130 batting average for the season. Fe (15-9) won the Cuban League title and Habana finished in last place with a record of 7-17 (.292).

Tinti also managed Habana in the 1906 American Series which was played against the Cuban X-Giants and a team that played under the name "All Americans." The series started on November 4th and ended on December 31st. Habana went 1-4 (.200) against the Cuban X-Giants and 1-4 (.200) against the All Americans

In 1907 Tinti managed Rojo in the Premio de Verano League in Cuba. Current research has identified that Rojo went 4-6-1- and finished the short Premio de Verano season in third place.

Molina's next opportunity to manage in Cuba came in October of 1909 when Indianapolis of the American Association came to Cuba to play teams from Almendares and Habana in the American Series. The Detroit Tigers of the American League followed Indianapolis to the island. Tinti Molina also managed Habana in their series against Detroit and was very successful with a record of 4-2 (.667) against the Major Leaguers. Habana lost the first two games of the series, then came back to win four in a row.

The 1910 Cuban League season which started on February 6th and ended on April 3rd resulted in only a sixteen (16) game season that was shortened due to a dispute between “league” officials and team owners. The issue revolved around the use of foreign players. League officials wanted to ban the use of foreign players and team owners wanted to use imported players because they felt these players increased the quality of baseball for Cuban fans. Tinti Molina managed Habana to a second place finish with a 9-7 (.563) record. Almendares took the “league” title with an impressive record of 13-3 (.813).

Tinti also managed Habana in the 1910 American Series that was played against the Leland Giants, Detroit Tigers (American League) and Philadelphia Athletics (American League).

It does not appear that Tinti Molina managed or played in Cuba during the 1910-11 Cuban Winter League season. He could have managed or coached one of the lower level teams on the island. Tinti did, however, manage Habana Park in the 1911 American Series against the New Britain Perfectos of the Connecticut State League, the New York Giants of the National League and the Philadelphia Phillies of the National League.

Tinti returned to the Cuban League as a manager when he took over the reigns of team Fe for the 1912 season. The thirty-four (34) game season started on January 14th and play concluded on April 29th. Molina signed several strong Negro baseball players for his team like Pelayo Chacon (3B), Mike Gonzalez (C), Adolfo Luque (P), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Spottswood Poles (OF), Dick “Cannonball” Redding (P), Louis Santop (C) and Frank “The Red Ant” Wickware (P). Alfredo Cabrera (.342) led the team in hitting and Frank Wickware (10-4) was the ace of the pitching staff. Even with a solid roster, the players did not perform up to anyone’s expectations. Fe finished the season in last place with a disappointing record of 14-24 (.368). Abel Linares’ Habana team won the title with a record of 22-12 (.647).

Prior to the start of the 1913 Cuban League season, Tinti Molina signed a “new” group of Negro baseball players to improve his roster. The thirty-two (32) game season in 1913 started on January 1st and ended on March 23rd. Molina’s team was led by the hitting of Spottswood Poles (.364), Jude Gans (.346) and John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.341). Tinti’s pitching staff was anchored by the duo of “Smokey Joe” Williams (9-5) and Dick “Cannonball” Redding (7-2). With both outstanding hitting and pitching, Fe won 12 of its last 13 games to capture the “league” championship. Fe finished the season with a record of 21-11 (.656) and were five (5) games ahead of Almendares (16-16).

When the 1913-14 Cuban Winter League started on December 16th Tinti Molina was back in Cuba at the helm of team Fe. The thirty-three (33) game schedule concluded play on March 3, 1914. Almendares (22-11) won the “league” title even though Fe’s ace pitcher Pastor Pareda (11-9) beat Almendares seven (7) times during the season. Fe finished the Cuban Winter League season in second place with a respectable record of 19-14 (.576).

Tinti Molina did not manage in the Cuban Winter League during the 1914-15 season.

The Indianapolis ABCs and a Chinese baseball team came to Cuba in early October of 1915 to participate in the American Series. The 1915 American Series started on October 1st and ended on November 29th. The Chinese team lost eight of the twelve games they played against several Cuban teams. The Indianapolis ABCs under C.I. Taylor came to Cuba with high hopes. Indianapolis was led by the hitting of Oscar Charleston, Jimmie Lyons and Ben Taylor. Dick “Cannonball” Redding was the ace of the pitching staff. Tinti Molina’s Habana squad countered with the hitting of Jacinto Calvo (.364) and Esuebio Gonzalez (.367). Molina sent Pastor Pared (2-0) and Jose Acosta (2-2) to the mound as his two primary starting pitchers as Tinti’s team defeated the Negro leaguers six games to three.



Club Fe (1913-14)

(Back row left to right – Rogelio Valdez, Francisco Munoz, Agustin Parpetti, Eusebio Gonzalez, Vicente Rodriguez and Marcelino Guerra. Middle row left to right – Jose Junco, Ricardo Hernandez, **Agustin “Tinti” Molina**, Pelayo Chacon and Carlos Moran. Front row left to right – Manuel Villa and Rafael Figarola.)

In 1915 Agustin “Tinti” Molina was named as the manager for Habana. There were only three teams (Almendares, Habana and San Francisco) in the 1915-16 Cuban Winter League season. The season started on December 4, 1915 and ended on March 26, 1916. Molina’s entire roster for the season was comprised completely of Cuban born players. Habana (28-15) finished the season two and a half games behind Almendares (30-12) in the final “league” standings.

Three new teams (Orientales, Red Sox and White Sox) competed in the Cuban Winter League in 1917. The season got a late start because the players wanted a system that paid them a percentage of the gate and the team owners did not agree. The shortened season consisted of only fourteen (14) games and was played at Orientales Park which had been a horse race track. To convert the race track to a baseball park Polo Grounds crew chief, Henry Fabian, was hired to formulate a conversion plan. Tinti Molina managed the White Sox team that included Cuban great Jose M. Fernandez as his starting catcher. The season lasted less than a month. It started on January 29th and ended on February 26th. The final “league” standings were as follows: Orientales (8-6), Red Sox (6-7) and White Sox (6-7).

The conflict between the players and team owners was resolved before the start of the 1918-19 Cuban Winter League season. The forty-eight (48) game schedule for the season started on November 10, 1918 and play concluded on March 23, 1919. The 1918-19 season was played at the much hyped “new” Almendares Park. Three teams (Almendares, Cuban Stars and Habana) played in the “league” during the season. Tinti Molina managed the Cuban Stars. In the Cuban media the Cuban Stars were promoted as being the same Cuban Stars team that Tinti had managed in the United States during the 1918 regular season. This was not true. The majority of the players on the 1918 Cuban Stars team that played in the United States were not on the roster of the Cuban Stars winter league team. When the season concluded play on March 23rd of 1919, the Cuban Stars were in second place with a record of 21-25 (.457). Habana (29-19) won the “league” title and Almendares (20-26) finished in third place.

The 1919-20 Cuban Winter League season was shortened to just twenty-two (22) games. The season started on December 20, 1919 and ended on February 22, 1920. When the Cuban Stars did not field a team, Molina signed to manage team America which was a new entry into the “league.” Tinti fielded his roster with strictly Latin players. During the season Molina didn’t get any hitting or pitching. America started the season slow and never got untracked. They only won two (2) of their first twenty-one (21) ball games before they dropped out of the “league” on February 19th.

Tinti Molina did not manage in the Cuban Winter league during the 1920-21 or 1921 season. The 1921 Cuban Winter League season was very interesting because the “league” only had two teams (Almendares and Habana) and only played five (5) games for the entire season.

Going into the 1922-23 Cuban Winter League season, two new teams (Marianao and Santa Clara) joined the “league.” Agustin “Tinti” Molina was signed by the Santa Clara team owners to manage the team. Tinti had the nucleus of a solid roster. Dave Brown, Eustaquio “Bombin” Pedroso and Bill Holland anchored the pitching staff. The hitting attack was led by Oscar Charleston (.446), Alejandro Oms (.436). Pablo Mesa (.317), Julio Rojo (.288), Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle and Frank Warfield. Unfortunately even with a solid starting line-up, Santa Clara had trouble drawing fans to the ball park. About mid season the team withdrew from the “league” and forfeited its last twenty-seven (27) games. Santa Clara had a record of 15-13 and was in second place in the “league” standings when they dropped out. Newcomer Marianao won the championship with a record of 35-19 (.648).

Santa Clara Leopards - One of the Greatest Latin Teams

Before the 1923-24 Cuban Winter League season began, Emilio de Armas and Abel Linares (team owners of the Santa Clara Leopards) traveled to the United States to assemble a team of Negro League players to bring to Cuba to help them win a Cuban League championship. De Armas and Linares were successful in signing some of the best Negro League players of the day. Their Leopards team included Oscar Charleston, Alejandro Oms, Dobie Moore, Oliver Marcelle, Oscar “Heavy” Johnson, Rube Currie, Dave Brown and several other standout players. To manage their team of superstars, De Armas and Linares named Latin great Agustin “Tinti” Molina as the manager of the team. The starting line-up for this Negro League all-star team who would make the Santa Clara Leopards one of the greatest Latin teams of all time was as follows:

Santa Clara Leopards (1923-24)

Player	Position	Batting Average	Player	Position	Record
Eddie Douglas	1B	.322	Dave Brown	Pitcher	7-3
Oscar “Heavy” Johnson	1B	.345	Rube Currie	Pitcher	8-2
Frank “Weasel” Warfield	2B	.296	Bill Holland	Pitcher	10-2
Walter “Dobie” Moore	SS	.386	Jose Mendez	Pitcher	3-1
Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle	3B	.393	Merven “Red” Ryan	Pitcher	5-0
Frank Duncan	C	.336			
Julio Rojo	C	.320			
Oscar Charleston	OF	.375			
Pablo “Champion” Mesa	OF	.328			
Alejandro Oms	OF	.381			

The starting line-up for Santa Clara compiled a team batting average of .349 for the entire season. Five of these players - Oscar Charleston (.534), Alejandro Oms (.532), Dobie Moore (.516), Oliver Marcelle (.511) and Oscar Johnson (.509) - had season slugging averages above .500. The 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopards also set the all-time Cuban League team batting record for a single season with a .331 team batting average.



Santa Clara Leopards (1923-24)

(Standing left to right: **Jose Mendez**, **Oscar Charleston**, **Oliver “Ghost” Marcelle**, Esteban Montalvo, **Frank Warfield** and **Julio Rojo**. Middle row: Frank Duncan, **Alejandro Oms** and Pablo Mesa. Front row: Rube Currie, Dave Brown, **Walter “Dobie” Moore**, Pedro Dibut, Matias Rios and Bombin Pedroso)

Behind the hitting and pitching of these Negro League stars, the Leopards easily won the 1923-24 Cuban League season championship with a 36-11 (.766) record. The Leopards finished 11 ½ games ahead of the Habana Leones who finished in second place. This feat is even more remarkable when you take into consideration that the Cuban Winter League season was only 48 games (Santa Clara tied one game). The 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopards are generally considered the best team to ever play in the Cuban League and one of the best all-time Latin teams in professional baseball history.



Oliver “Ghost” Marcelle
Santa Clara



Walter “Dobie” Moore
Santa Clara

The 1923-24 Cuban season started on November 20, 1923 and ended on January 16, 1924. During the season Molina's Leopards had winning streaks of 11 of 13 games and 14 of 15 games. They also won their last six (6) games of the season. The final standings for the 1923-24 Cuban Winter League season was as follows:

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	Games Behind
Santa Clara Leopards	36	11	.766	-
Habana Leones	25	23	.521	11 ½
Almendares Alacranes	18	29	.383	18
Marianao Tigres	16	32	.333	20 ½

After the conclusion of an extremely successful 1923-24 winter league season, Cuban baseball fans wanted more baseball. Team owners met and quickly scheduled a special season that was called "Gran Premio" (Special Season). Almendares, Habana and Santa Clara all participated. Play in the Gran Premio twenty-five (25) game season started just three days after the end of the regular winter league season. Behind his team of Negro League super stars, Tinti Molina's Leopards won the Gran Premio league championship with a 13-12 (.520) record. Dave Brown (4-2) and Bill Holland (4-3) anchored Tinti's pitching staff. Oscar Charleston (.365), Dobie Moore (.299) and Alejandro Oms (.290) were the team's top hitters.

Santa Clara Fades

The 1923-24 Cuban Winter League season managing the Santa Clara Leopards was by far the most successful season of Tinti Molina's managerial career. When the 1924-25 Cuban Winter League season got underway, team owners and Santa Clara fans were expecting a repeat of their championship season. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Tinti fielded what on paper appeared to be a strong roster. Alejandro Oms (.393), Frank Warfield (.323), Esteban Montalvo (.314), Oliver Marcelle (.310) and Floyd "Jelly" Gardner (.288) led the team in hitting. Molina also had what he thought would be a strong pitching staff that included Bill Holland (7-8), Sam Streeter (4-2), Dave Brown (2-4), Jose Mendez (2-3) and Juan Eckleson (2-0). In early January with dwindling attendance at Boulanger Park in Santa Clara and the realization that his team would never catch "league" leading Almendares, team owner Abel Linares moved the team to Matanzas. The Santa Clara/Matanzas team struggled all season. They ended the season in third place in the final "league" standings with a disappointing record of 20-28 (.417). The Leopards were twelve and a half games behind the champion Almendares Alacranes (33-16).

When Santa Clara/Matanzas did not field a team for the 1925-26 season, Agustin Molina was left without a job. The 1925-26 Cuban season was very disappointing. The season started with only three teams (Almendares, Habana and San Jose). Unfortunately, San Jose dropped out of the "league" about half way through the season on December 22, 1925.

Going into the 1926-27 Cuban Winter League season, Cienfuegos decided to field a team for the first time in the "league's" history. The team owners' choice for their manager was Tinti Molina. Also joining the "league" was team Cuba. The forty-five (45) game season started on October 9, 1926 and ended on January 3, 1927. Tinti Molina struggled to sign a roster of quality players and Cienfuegos dropped out of the "league" on November 13th after playing only twelve (12) games. Most of Molina's roster was comprised of local players from central Cuba where Cienfuegos was located. The primary reason for the team choosing not to continue to compete in the Cuban Winter League was the high cost of travel for all the "league" teams because Cienfuegos was located in the middle of the island. Cienfuegos had a record of 6-6 (.500) when they withdrew from the "league."

After a two year absence from managing in the Cuban Winter League, Tinti Molina returned as the manager of the newly formed franchise representing Santa Clara. The team joined Almendares, Cienfuegos and Habana for the 1929-30 Cuban Winter League season. Tinti was able to put together a very competitive roster that was led by the hitting of Alejandro Oms (.380), George "Mule" Suttles (.314), Frank Warfield (.313) and Buck Ewing (.304). Tinti also recruited

a strong pitching staff that included the legendary Satchel Paige (6-5), Basilio Rosell (6-7), Ramon Bragana (5-3) and Laymon Yokely (2-4). The Santa Clara Leopards played solid baseball the entire season and ended the 1929-30 Cuban Winter League in second place in the final standings with a record of 21-21 (.500). They were 6 ½ games behind Cienfuegos (32-19) who won the “league” title.

There was a tremendous amount of excitement and anticipation prior to the start of the 1930-31 Cuban Winter League season. Julio Blanco Herrera who owned a local beer company had just completed construction of a brand new state of the art baseball stadium next to his brewery. The stadium was named “La Tropical.” To commemorate the opening of the stadium, two teams of Major League all-stars traveled to Cuba to play each other. One team was managed by Jewel Ens (Pittsburgh Pirates) and the other team was piloted by Dave Bancroft (New York Giants). The first game at the new modern stadium was played on October 10th with 20,000 fans in attendance. Numerous Major League Hall of Famers like Carl Hubbell (P), Heinie Manush (OF), Rabbit Maranville (2B), Sam Rice (OF), Bill Terry (1B), Pie Traynor (SS) and Paul Waner (OF) all came to Cuba to play in the eight (8) game series between the two all-star teams.

After a spectacular opening of La Tropical Stadium, the 1930 Cuban Winter League season turned out to be complete disaster. The season started on October 25th and ended on October 30th with only five (5) games having been played. The reason for the shortened season was a contract dispute between team owners and the management of La Tropical Stadium where the “league” games were supposed to be played. Tinti Molina returned to manage the Santa Clara Leopards. In preparation for the upcoming season Molina recruited several Negro League players to bolster his roster. They were Ramon Bragana (P), George Giles (1B), Henry McHenry (P), Dink Mothel (2B), Alejandro Oms (OF), Lazaro Salazar (OF/P), Luis Tiant (P) and Tom Young (C). Tinti Molina’s new line-up never got a chance to prove itself as the team played only one game.

Tinti Molina made his last appearance in the Cuban Winter League during the 1937-38 season when he was one of three individuals to manage the last place Habana Leones before they withdrew from the “league” on January 25, 1938. Jose Oliveras and Julio Rojo also managed the Leones during the season.



Molina Continues to Play a Role in Cuban Baseball

In addition to being a player, manager and officer of several Cuban teams, Agustin Molina was also considered the right hand man for Cuban baseball impresario Abel Linares who basically controlled professional baseball in Cuba throughout his career. To maintain a watchful eye over the business side of the Cuban League and Cuban Winter League, Linares appointed Tinti Molina as the administrator of the “league.” Tinti served in this position until 1946.

Passing of a Cuban Great

Agustin “Tinti” Molina passed away on January 10, 1961 in La Habana, Cuba. He was laid to rest in an ossuary that was placed in the 1942 Monument to Baseballists Memorial in the Cemeterio Cristobal Colon in La Habana, Cuba. Molina was 87 years old.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1899	All Cubans	Independent
1903	All Cubans	Independent
1906	Cuban X-Giants	Independent
1906	Havana Stars	Independent
1906	Philadelphia Quaker Giants	Independent
1906	Philadelphia Quaker Giants	International League
1906	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent
1906	Cuban Stars	Independent
1910	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent
1910-1911	Cuban Stars	Independent
1911	All Cubans	Independent
1917	Cuban Stars (West)	Independent
1921	All Cubans	Independent

Winter Leagues:

1894-95	Matanzas B.B.C.	Cuban Winter League
1897-98	Fiesta	Cuban Winter League
1899	Cuba	Cuban League
1900	Criollos	American Series vs Cuban X-Giants
1900	Cubano	Cuban League
1901	Cubano	Cuban League
1901	Habana	Cuban League
1902	Habana	Cuban League
1903	Nuevo Azul	American Series vs Cuban X-Giants
1904	San Francisco	Cuban League
1904	Azul	Premio de Verano (Cuba)
1904	Almendares	Cuban League
1904	Azul	American Series vs Cuban X-Giants
1904	Azul	American Series vs Lynn (MA)
1904	Azul	American Series vs Tampa (FL)
1904	Azul	American Series vs All-Americans
1904	Azul	American Series vs All-Nationals
1904-05	Azul	Premio de Verano (Cuba)
1905	Almendares	Cuban League
1905	Azul	Cuban League
1905	Habana	American Series vs Cuban X-Giants
1905	Habana	American Series vs Lynn (MA)
1906	Habana	Cuban League
1907	Almendares	Cuban League
1907	Rojo	Premio de Verano (Cuba)
1907	Habana	American Series vs Philadelphia Giants
1907	Habana	American Series vs All-Leaguers
1908	Habana	Cuban League
1908-09	Habana	Cuban Winter League

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1903	All Cubans	26	111	10	15	1	0	0	5	0	.135	.144
1906	Cuban X-Giants	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	.333	.333
1906	Cuban Stars	6	23	3	4	1	0	0	1	0	.174	.217
1906	Quaker Giants	5	22	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	.136	.136
1906	Havana Stars	8	30	6	12	2	1	0	7	1	.400	.533
1910	Cuban Stars	5	20	5	8	3	0	0	5	0	.400	.550
1911	Cuban Stars	2	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.200	.400
1911	All Cubans	6	16	3	5	0	0	0	1	0	.313	.308
1917	Cuban Stars	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1921	All Cubans	2	7	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	.286	.286
1929	Cuban Stars	-	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1930	Cuban Stars	-	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Total	62	250	31	51	8	1	0	22	2	.204	.244

Career Statistics – Hitting (Winter – Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1894-95	Matanzas	4	18	-	4	0	0	0	-	-	.222	.222
1897-98	Fiesta	3	14	-	4	0	0	0	-	-	.286	.286
1899	Cuba	6	26	1	5	0	0	0	-	-	.192	.192
1900	Criollos	3	11	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	.182	.182
1900	Cubano	22	76	15	10	0	1	0	7	4	.132	.158
1901	Cubano	11	37	9	7	0	2	0	1	1	.180	.290
1901	Habana	8	23	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	.043	.043
1902	Habana	17	57	-	4	0	0	0	0	0	.070	.070
1903	Nuevo Azul	2	8	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	.125	.125
1904	San Francisco	20	69	9	16	2	2	0	4	6	.232	.319
1904	Azul	17	63	9	10	1	0	0	3	2	.159	.175
1904-05	Azul	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1905	Almendares	7	23	1	4	1	0	0	2	1	.174	.217
1905	Azul	15	58	9	10	1	2	0	5	4	.172	.259
1905	Habana	3	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.125	.125
1906	Habana	26	74	7	10	0	1	0	4	3	.130	.160
1907	Almendares	10	29	3	6	0	0	0	0	2	.207	.207
1907	Rojo	6	19	4	5	0	0	0	2	0	.263	.263
1908	Habana	18	60	8	10	0	0	0	3	1	.167	.167
1908-09	Habana	9	27	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	.070	.070
	Total	208	701	78	112	5	8	0	32	24	.160	.191

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro Leagues	62	250	31	51	8	1	0	22	2	.204	.244
Cuban Leagues	208	701	78	112	5	8	0	32	24	.160	.191
Total	270	951	109	163	13	9	0	54	26	.171	.204

Managerial Career

Regular Season – United States:

Year	Team	League
1906	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent
1910	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent
1911	All Cubans	Independent
1912	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent
1913-1915	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent
1916-1919	Cuban Stars (West)	Independent
1919	Cuban Stars (West)	Tour of Mexico
1920	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League
1921	Cincinnati Cuban Stars	Negro National League
1922-1930	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League



Cuban Stars (1915)

(Back row left to right – Bartolo Portuando, Bienvendio “Hooks” Jimenez, Vicente “Loco” Rodriquez, Marcelino Guerra, Jose “Tatica” Campos and Eustaquio “Bombin” Pedroso. Middle row left to right – Gervasio “Strike” Gonzalez, **Agustin “Tinti” Molina**, Manolo Villa and Jose Padron.
Front row left to right – Matais Rios and Jose Junco.)

Winter Leagues - Cuba:

1899	Cuba	Cuban League
1906	Habana	Cuban League
1906	Habana	American Series vs Cuban X-Giants
1906	Habana	American Series vs All Americans
1907	Rojo	Premio de Verano (Cuba)
1907	Almendares (coach)	Cuban League
1909	Habana	American Series vs Indianapolis
1909	Habana	American Series vs Detroit Tigers
1909	Habana	American Series vs All Stars
1910	Habana	Cuban League
1910	Habana	American Series vs Leland Giants
1910	Habana	American Series vs Philadelphia A's
1910	Habana	American Series vs Detroit Tigers
1911	Habana Park	American Series vs New Britain (CT)
1911	Habana Park	American Series vs New York Giants
1911	Habana Park	American Series vs Philadelphia Phillies
1912	Fe	Cuban League
1913	Fe	Cuban League
1913-14	Fe	Cuban Winter League
1915	Habana Park	American Series vs St. Louis Federals
1915	Habana Park	American Series vs Chinese team
1915	Habana Park	American Series vs Indianapolis ABCs
1915-16	Habana Park	Cuban Winter League
1917	White Sox	Cuban League
1918-19	Cuban Stars	Cuban Winter League
1919-20	America	Cuban Winter League
1922-23	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League
1923-24	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League
1924	Santa Clara Leopards	El Gran Premio Invernal (Cuba)
1924-25	Santa Clara/Matanzas	Cuban Winter League
1926-27	Cienfuegos	Cuban Winter League
1929-30	Santa Clara	Cuban Winter League
1930	Santa Clara	Cuban Winter League
1937-38	Habana	Cuban Winter League



Almendares (1907)

(Back row – Heliodoro Hidalgo, unknown, unknown, **Carlos “Bebe” Royer**, unknown and Gervasio “Strike” Gonzalez. Front row left to right – **Armando Marsans**, **Rafael Almeida** and Alfredo Cabrera.)

Managerial Career (Won-Loss Records)

Regular Season – United States:

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.
1906	Havana Stars	Independent	5	0	1	1.000
1906	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent	2	4	1	.333
1910	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent	18	13	0	.581
1911	All Cubans	Independent	9	20	0	.310
1912	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent	12	9	2	.571
1913	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent	16	14	0	.533
1914	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent	23	19	1	.548
1915	Cuban Stars of Havana	Independent	24	29	2	.453
1916	Cuban Stars (West)	Independent	35	34	2	.507
1917	Cuban Stars (West)	Independent	19	29	0	.396
1918	Cuban Stars (West)	Independent	17	23	2	.425
1919	Cuban Stars (West)	Independent	18	17	0	.514
1920	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	35	34	0	.507
1921	Cincinnati Cuban Stars	Negro National League	36	44	2	.450
1922	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	18	43	0	.295
1923	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	27	35	0	.435
1924	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	15	34	0	.306
1925	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	20	30	0	.400
1926	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	19	47	0	.288
1927	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	18	43	0	.295
1928	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	13	41	0	.241
1929	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	18	40	2	.310
1930	Cuban Stars (West)	Negro National League	25	41	0	.379
Total			442	643	15	.407



Almendares (1907)

(Back row - Angel D'Meza, Esteban Prats, Rogelio Valdes, Trainer Evaristo Pla, Pajaro Cabrera and **Coach Agustin "Tinti" Molina**. Seated left to right - Andres Ortega w/ daughter, Emilio Palomino, Joseito Munoz, Gervasio "Strike" Gonzalez and **Armano Marsans**.)

Winter Leagues – Cuba:

Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Place	
1899	Cuba	Cuban League	4	8	0	.333	3 rd
1906	Habana	Cuban League	7	17	0	.292	3 rd
1906	Habana	American Series (Cuba)	2	8	0	.200	3 rd
1907	Rojo	Premio de Verano (Cuba)	4	6	1	.400	3 rd
1909	Habana	American Series (Indianapolis)	2	4	0	.333	3 rd
1909	Habana	American Series (Detroit Tigers)	4	2	0	.667	1 st
1909	Habana	American Series (All Stars)	2	1	0	.667	1 st
1910	Habana	Cuban Winter League	9	7	0	.563	2 nd
1910	Habana	American Series vs Leland Giants	0	5	0	.000	3 rd
1910	Habana	American Series vs Detroit Tigers	3	3	0	.545	2 nd
1910	Habana	American Series vs Philadelphia A's	3	2	0	.600	1 st
1911	Habana Park	American Series ns New Britain	4	3	0	.571	2 nd
1911	Habana Park	American Series vs Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400	3 rd
1911	Habana Park	American Series vs New York	1	5	0	.167	3 rd
1912	Fe *	Cuban Winter League	13	13	0	.500	3 rd
(Note – During the 1911-12 Cuban Winter League season Sol White also briefly managed the Fe team.)							
1913	Fe	Cuban League	21	11	2	.656	1 st
1913-14	Fe	Cuban Winter League	19	14	0	.576	2 nd
1915	Habana Park	American Series (Cuba)	6	3	0	.667	1 st
1915-16	Habana Park	Cuban Winter League	28	15	2	.651	2 nd
1917	White Sox	Cuban Winter League	6	7	1	.462	2 nd
1918-19	Cuba Stars	Cuban Winter League	21	25	1	.457	2 nd
1919-20	America	Cuban Winter League	2	19	0	.095	3 rd
1922-23	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League	15	12	1	.556	2 nd
1923-24	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League	36	11	1	.766	1 st
1923-24	Santa Clara Leopards	Gran Premio Invernal (Cuba)	13	12	1	.520	1 st
1924-25	Santa Clara/Matanzas	Cuban Winter League	20	28	0	.416	3 rd
1926-27	Cienfuegos	Cuban Winter League	6	6	0	.500	2 nd
1929-30	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League	21	21	0	.500	2 nd
1930	Santa Clara	Cuban Winter League	0	1	0	.000	4 th
		Total	274	272	10	.502	-



Habana (1909)

(Coach Agustin "Tinti" Molina – back row third from left)

Assessing Tinti Molina's Career

- During his **playing career in Cuba**, Agustin Molina was a **member of the following championship teams**.

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.
1897-98	Fiesta	Cuban League	8	2	-	.800
1901	Habana	Cuban League	16	3	-	.842
1902	Habana	Cuban League	17	0	-	1.000
1904	Azul	Premio de Verano	13	6	-	.684
1905	Almendares	Cuban League	19	11	-	.633
1907	Almendares	Cuban League	17	13	-	.567
1908-09	Habana	Cuban Winter League	29	13	-	.690

- In Cuba, Agustin “Tinti” Molina had a **very successful career as a manager**. However, he could not duplicate that success in the United States. In the United States Tinti Molina managed the Cuban Stars of Havana, All Cubans and Cuban Stars (West) for eleven (11) seasons playing an independent baseball schedule. Molina’s teams compiled a won-loss record of 198-211-11 (.476) during these eleven (11) seasons. He also managed the Cuban Stars (West) and Cincinnati Cuban Stars for eleven (11) seasons in the Negro National League. Molina’s teams fared even worse in these “league” games than they had while playing an independent schedule. In games against Negro National League opponents, Molina’s teams went 244-432-4 (.361). Tinti Molina only had one winning season in Negro National League play and that was in 1920 which was the inaugural season of the “league.” The 1920 Cuban Stars (West) went 35-34 (.507) and were in fifth place in the final Negro National League standings. Tinti Molina’s won-loss record in Negro baseball in the United States was 442-643-15 (.407).

Tinti Molina’s career managing in Cuba met with success. His managerial career started in Cuba in 1899 when he was named the manager of team Cuba and ended with a brief stint managing the Habana Leones during the 1937-38 Cuban Winter League season. The highlight of his managerial career in Cuba was during the 1923-24 season when he piloted the Santa Clara Leopards to two championship titles. For his managerial career in Cuba, Tinti Molina compiled a won-loss record of 274-272-10 (.502).

During his managerial career in Cuba, Tinti Molina managed five (5) championship teams. They were as follows:

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.
1909	Habana	American Series (Cuba)	6	3	0	.667
1913	Fe	Cuban Winter League	21	11	2	.656
1915	Habana Park	American Series (Cuba)	6	3	0	.667
1923-24	Santa Clara Leopards	Cuban Winter League	36	11	1	.766
1923-24	Santa Clara Leopards	Gran Premio Invernal (Cuba)	13	12	1	.520

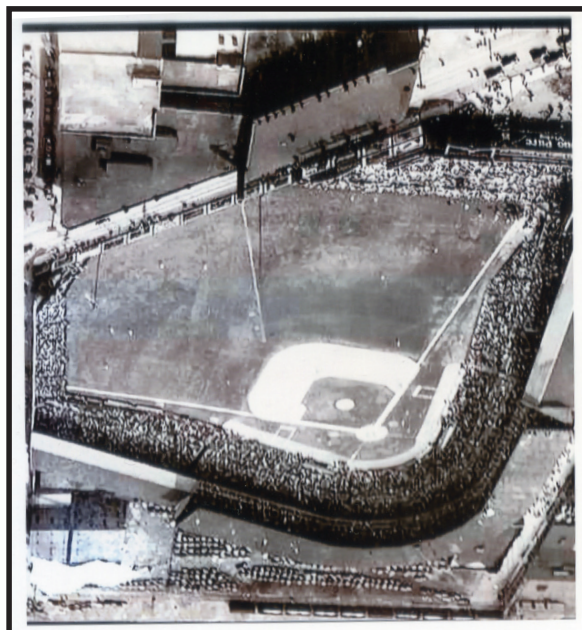
Molina had an overall won-loss record of 726-918-25 (.442) for his managerial career that began with the 1899 season and ended during the 1937-38 winter league season in Cuba. A breakdown for his won-loss record in the United States and Cuba is as follows:

	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.
United States	442	643	15	.407
Non-League Games	27	30	1	.474
Cuba	274	272	10	.502
Total	743	945	26	.440

According to research presented on the Agate Type website, the Cuban Stars had a won-loss record of 89-93 (.489) during the 1919 and 1920 seasons in the United States. If you add the differential of these numbers to the records presented here by the Center for Negro League Baseball Research, this would change Tinti Molina's won-loss record as a manager from 442-643-15 (.407) to 478-685-15 (.411) in the United States. The won-loss records presented by Agate Type seem very reasonable for two reasons. First, our research has only recovered 35 games for the Cuban Stars 1919 season and they would not have come all the way from Cuba to only play 35 games. Obviously we are still missing a significant number of games played by the team in 1919. Secondly, our records for their 1920 season only reflect the Cuban Stars games against Negro National League opponents and they had to have played a significant number of games against "non-league" opponents during the 1920 season. The primary reason that we did not include these additional 78 games reported by Agate Type in our statistics is that Agate Type records only report a total number of games for both seasons combined and do not break the numbers down in a total for each year.

In addition, the Detroit Times reported on July 30, 1914 that the Cuban Stars were coming to Mack Stadium in Detroit with a twenty-five (25) game winning streak. We did not include this number in our analysis because we could not verify specifics like the dates played, opponents, game scores and games won.

- With the exception of the 1921 Cincinnati Cuban Stars, all of Tinti Molina's teams that played in the United States were **traveling teams that played an independent schedule** all over the western part of the country. Being on the road traveling had to have had a significant negative impact on the physical conditioning of his players especially when they got injured. In addition without a home field, Tinti **never got the opportunity to develop a strong local fan base** which would have had a dramatic negative impact on the financial component of the team.



Redland Field
Cincinnati, OH

Home of 1921
Cincinnati Cuban Stars

- Molina was considered to be a **very smart ball player and manager**. When he was a catcher he knew the strengths and weaknesses of opposing players and reportedly called a good game from behind the plate. As a manager he was considered a **master at strategy**. His skills as a manager were incredibly important during his day because more often than not he had a small roster of players. While touring in the United States, it was not uncommon for Tinti to only have twelve (12) players on his team at any given time.

- With his **connections in Negro baseball in the United States and Cuban baseball**, Tinti Molina paved the way for many great Cuban ball players like Alejandro Oms, Jose Mendez, Esteban Montalvo, Pablo Mesa and others to come to the United States to play baseball.

In addition he was very influential in bringing many of the great Negro baseball stars like Oscar Charleston, John Henry “Pop” Lloyd, Dick “Cannonball” Redding, Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle, Walter “Dobie” Moore, George “Mule” Suttles, Frank Warfield, “Smokey Joe” Williams and many others to play in Cuba during the winter league seasons.

Agustin Molina is also credited with discovering Cuban and Nation League great Adolfo Luque when he was playing for a Cuban army team.



**Adolfo Luque
Cincinnati Reds**

- As a player, Tinti Molina was an **extremely poor hitter**. Current research has identified 270 games in which Tinti played in Cuba and the United States. In these 270 games he went 163 for 951 for a .171 career batting average. In addition to a poor batting average, Tinti exhibited no power. In his 951 at bats he only had 22 extra base hits (13 doubles, 9 triples and 0 homeruns).
- Defensively, Tinti Molina was an **average fielder with only average speed**. In the field, Tinti was both a catcher and first baseman.
- At best Agustin “Tinti” Molina was only an **average ball player** who played at least twelve (12) seasons in Negro baseball in the United States and Cuba.
- As a player and manager, we are **missing a significant number of his statistics**. The primary reason is that in the United States, newspaper coverage was very poor and Tinti had to have played in and/or managed several hundred games for which box scores have not been located or may not even exist. In the United States we are missing all but fifty-eight (58) non-league games in which he managed while his team played in the Negro National League.

In Cuba Tinti Molina played in and most likely managed numerous seasons in lower level leagues like the Premio de Verano League for which we have no records.

Selected Career Highlights

- Agustin “Tinti” Molina was a member of the 1899 All Cubans baseball team who are credited with being the first professional Latin baseball team to tour the United States.
- Molina caught for the 1897-98 Fiesta team who were the champions of the Cuban Winter League.
- In 1901 Tinti played briefly for the Habana team who were the Cuban League champions with a record of 16-3 (.842).
- Tinti Molina was the starting catcher for the 1902 Habana team who went undefeated in “league” play with a record of 17-0 (1.000) and walked away with the Cuban League title.
- Molina was the starting catcher for the 1904 Azul team who won the Premio de Verano league championship with a won-loss record of 13-6 (.684).
- He was also a member of the 1905 and 1907 Almendares teams who won the Cuban League championship.
- Tinti played on the 1908-09 Habana team who won the Cuban League championship.
- In October of 1909 Tinti managed Habana in the American Series against the Detroit Tigers of the American League. Habana lost the first two games of the series and then came back to win the next four in a row from the Major Leaguers.
- While managing in Cuba Tinti Molina’s teams won two American Series titles in 1909 and 1915.
- He piloted the 1913 Fe team to a record of 21-11-2 (.653) and won the Cuban League title.
- Tinti Molina managed Habana Park to an American Series championship over C.I. Taylor’s Indianapolis ABCs. Habana won six games to three for Indianapolis.
- During the 1915-16 Cuban Winter League season, he managed Habana Park to an impressive won-loss record of 28-15-2 (.651). Unfortunately, that was only good enough for second place in the final “league” standings behind Almendares.
- Tinti managed the 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopards who are considered one of the greatest Latin teams of all-time. The team posted a won-loss record of 36-11 (.766) and won the Cuban Winter League title by 11 ½ games.
- Molina also led the 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopards to the Gran Premio Invernal (Cuba) league championship with a won-loss record of 13-12-1 (.520).
- Agustin “Tinti” Molina was elected to the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame in 1942.
- For his contributions to Negro baseball in the United States and Cuba, Agustin “Tinti” Molina is considered a **true pioneer of baseball** in two countries.



All Cubans (1899)